

Studies in African Linguistics

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Robert Botne: *Motion, time, and tense: on the grammaticization of come and go to future markers in Bantu*

Many Bantu languages have grammaticized one or both types of motion verb – COME and GO – as future markers. However, they may differ in the semantics of future temporal reference, in some cases referring to a “near” future, in others to a “remote” future. This paper explores how the underlying image-schemas of such verbs in several languages – Bamileke-Dschang, Bamun, and Lamnso’ (Grassfields Bantu), Duala, Chimwera, Chindali, Kihunde, and Zulu (Narrow Bantu) – contribute to how the verbs become grammaticized in relation to the dual construals of linguistic time: ego-moving vs. moving-event.

Joyce T. Mathangwane & E. Kweku Osam: *Grammatical relations in Ikalanga.*

Although facts about grammatical relations in many Bantu languages have been established since the early 1970s, there are still languages in this family which have not benefited from such studies. One of these is Ikalanga, spoken in Botswana and Zimbabwe. This paper examines the core grammatical relations of Ikalanga, exploring its typological status in terms of double object constructions. In prototypical ditransitive constructions, the Recipient NP has all of the properties of Direct Object, whereas the Theme NP has only some of those features. The conclusion is that Ikalanga is an intermediate language if object symmetry is scalar. However, it is shown that in marked applicative constructions where the Benefactive is non-human and the Theme is human, there is reason to argue for ‘split direct-objecthood’, reflecting the impact of animacy in the assignment of direct objecthood.

Ronald P. Schaefer & Francis O. Egbokhare: *On Emai vbi verbs*

We examine the distribution of Emai prepositional phrases and their NP complements relative to intransitive verbs. In canonical order constructions, *vbi* phrases follow a matrix verb as optional or obligatory constituents, or they follow the verb *za* in series before another matrix verb. In non-canonical order constructions, focused NP complements give rise to the verb *za* in series with only a subclass of intransitive verbs. Through lexical entry formats, we relate these distributional facts to distinct semantic roles and specific grammatical relations. Some *vbi* phrases show a complement relation for source and goal, but remaining phrases reflect inner locative complements or outer locative adjuncts, the latter signaled in focus constructions by *za*. We also comment on *vbi* prohibition outside the verb phrase and on its relationship to construal of affected object